



# **Kevin Humphries MP**

## **Minister for Mental Health**

## **Minister for Healthy Lifestyles**

## **Minister for Western NSW**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012

### **BUILDER ANNOUNCED FOR \$2M MAITLAND MENTAL HEALTH UNIT UPGRADE**

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, has announced the successful tender to build the new \$2 million upgrade to the Maitland Hospital inpatient Mental Health Unit is Australian construction company Hansen Yuncken.

The project is funded by the NSW Government, which has committed \$2 million to the upgrade through the Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Mr Humphries said the announcement delivers on an election commitment to provide a much needed upgrade for mental health facilities at Maitland Hospital.

“This announcement reflects the NSW Government’s commitment to providing increased mental health services and infrastructure throughout the State,” Mr Humphries said.

“This upgrade will provide improved facilities for patients, families, carers and staff. The improved layout of the unit will enable staff to work more effectively to deliver care to patients to best aid their recovery.

“I congratulate the Member for Maitland, Robyn Parker, who has been a tireless advocate for improved mental health services in her electorate, and who pushed for this upgrade prior to the last election.”

The refurbishment will include:

- A new family and carers’ room providing a more comfortable and private space for families and carers to meet and talk with their loved ones;
- A new and improved main entry to the ground floor unit from Maitland Hospital;
- A new reception and waiting area;
- A reconfigured staff station;
- A new and more secure staff entry; and
- A new meeting and education room for use by staff and patients.

The Member for Maitland, Robyn Parker, welcomed announcement and said the builder is expected to commence construction in January 2013, with the project expected to be completed by late 2013.

“This fantastic announcement is a major step towards improving mental health services in the Maitland electorate,” Ms Parker said.